

The
Melville Society
N E W S L E T T E R

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As promised in a previous issue, the *Newsletter* presents below a poem inspired by Melville and written by Professor Sava Klickovic of the University of Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Professor Klickovic is an honorary member of the Society.

ENEMIES

(In Memory of Herman Melville)

No, no enemies are
from outside
they are but echoes
answering our own lie.

Enemy is Question
the big White Whale—
embodied in blood and flesh.

Man merely Ahab
harpooner
chasing his Leviathan
harpooned
bloodily rises toward the sky.

Solution is self-destruction.

Tied by ropes to Whale
captured
together with him
we submerge into the depths of Truth.

A number of poems have been written about Melville or contain references to him. Would members care to have a list of these printed in a future issue of the *Newsletter*? Perhaps one of our members already has prepared such a list and would volunteer to supply it for publication. The secretary now has a partial list of poems on Melville in the English language. No doubt a number exist in other languages as well. Of these, however, if they exist, the secretary at present has no knowledge.

BIBLIOGRAPHIES

"The Melville bibliography for 1952-1955 is complete, and 1956 should be done soon," reports Stuart C. Sherman, chairman of the bibliography committee. Arrangements for publication and distribution have not as yet been made. Can any member suggest a regular journal which might be interested in publishing the bibliography annually? Or is our present plan of separate publication preferable? The latest (and first) annual bibliography for Melville (1951) was prepared largely

at the expense of the Providence (R. I.) Public Library and distributed by the Society to its active members with copies of the *Newsletter*. Perhaps wider distribution would be desirable. If so, copies might be sold at cost to non-members and associate members. At least one library has indicated interest in purchasing the annual bibliographies directly. The suggestions of members with respect to this matter (especially as to ideas for financing the project through some outside source) would be very welcome and should be addressed

to bibliographer Sherman at the Providence Public Library, 229 Washington St., Providence 3, R. I.

The complete check-list bibliography of Melville, which has been in preparation through the cooperative efforts of Harrison Hayford and Gordon Roper, was recently reported very near completion. Although the date of its publication by the Indiana University Press has not been announced, its appearance may probably be expected this year.

NOTES

Melville now is apparently regarded as an authority on logic, just as he has been mentioned (though with a whaling ship as his Harvard and Yale) among the American philosophers. This information may possibly come as a surprise to some scholars, though by no means to all. An excerpt from the writings of Melville is used as the basis for a discussion of logical method in a new book entitled *The Elements of Logic*, by Vincent E. Smith (Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee). Melville in this textbook finds himself in the company of such notables as Galileo, St. Thomas Aquinas, Aristotle, Hobbes, Einstein, Euclid, Copernicus, and other famous thinkers.

Ernest E. Leisy, one of the first Melville enthusiasts and long an expert in the field, reaches retirement age at Southern Methodist University this summer. He will remain on the campus until October to be on hand for the annual meeting of the South-Central Modern Language Association, of which he is president.

A book which every member should own is Floyd Stovall, ed., *Eight American Authors* (New York: Modern Language Association, 1956). The price is \$4.00. In it the late Stanley T. Williams of Yale reviews all the principal American research on Melville.

C. Merton Babcock's *Lexicon of Melville's Vocabulary* has not yet found a publisher. Here is another worthy project (at Michigan State University) for which a financial "angel" would be most useful.

The Bell-Tower, an opera in one act based upon the tale by Melville, received its premier performance at the University of Illinois Workshop in Urbana on Sun-

day, March 17. Composed by Ernst Krenk, it was produced and directed by Ludwig Zirner, with John Garvey as conductor. The opera constituted one event in the eighth annual Festival of Contemporary Arts at the university. News reports indicate an enthusiastic reception of the opera.

Robert G. Newman, librarian, has announced the gift to the Berkshire Athenaeum of a pair of andirons used by Melville at Arrowhead, his home near Pittsfield. The donor was Philip Marshall Brown of Williamstown (Mass.), who earlier had given Melville's log-poker (a trident) to the same collection. Both items may be seen in the Melville Room.

Redburn will soon be available in an inexpensive (95 cents) paperback edition in the Doubleday Anchor Books series. Probable date of publication is midsummer.

Mutiny in Paradise, a new book by James A. Michener and A. Grove Day, which is now being serialized in *This Week* magazine, opens with the following sentence: "Call him Ishmael." The story concerns a mutiny aboard the whaling ship *Globe*.

Of interest to Melvillians is the recent publication by John Wiley & Sons (New York) of *The First One Hundred and Fifty Years*, a history of the firm (founded 1807). As Wiley and Putnam, this publishing company included Melville's *Typee* in its popular "Library of American Books" series in 1846. The series also included Poe's *Tales*, Poe's *The Raven*, and Hawthorne's *Mosses from an Old Manse*.

Several Melville items appear in the annual bibliography on Relations of Literature and Science which is prepared by the M.L.A. General Topics Group VII. A selected bibliography on the same subject usually appears in the spring number of *Symposium*.

Query: What did Melville really mean when he called *Billy Budd* "an inside narrative"?

Any member desiring an offprint of "Hollywood Hunts the White Whale," by Tyrus Hillway, which appeared in the *Colorado Quarterly* for Winter, 1957, may secure one (while the supply lasts) by sending a 3-cent postage stamp to the secretary with his request.

THE *Melville Society* NEWSLETTER
IS PUBLISHED QUARTERLY FOR MEMBERS OF THE
Melville Society, a group of literary scholars and others interested
in the life and works of Herman Melville. The Society seeks to
facilitate the exchange of information among its members, to
stimulate the study of Melville's life and works, and to encourage
literary, historical, and bibliographical research. Membership is
two dollars per year and includes all services of the Society. Asso-
ciate membership (non-voting) is one dollar per year and includes
all issues of the Newsletter. Address Tyrus Hillway, secretary, at
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